

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are currently pending in the patent application. Of the pending, rejected claims, claim 19 is the only independent claim. As the Court noted in *In re Fine*, “dependent claims are nonobvious under section 103 if the independent claims from which they depend are nonobvious.” 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1569, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Using this same rationale, dependent claims cannot be anticipated if the independent claims from which they depend are not anticipated.

I. Remarks re 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections

In the Office Action, claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,496,317 issued to David (“Lacombe Patent”). These claims have been canceled without prejudice to the underlying subject matter. Hence, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

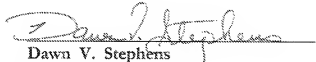
Claims 1-17 and are currently pending in the patent application and have been designated as allowable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests issuance of the present application given the allowance of all the pending claims.

While it is believed that this response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

It is believed that this response is timely filed with a two month extension of time. If there is an error, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to apply any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dawn V. Stephens", is written over a horizontal line.

Dawn V. Stephens

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